

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 00869 011525Z

73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-12 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 AGR-20 DRC-01 /204 W

----- 082049

R 011426Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9935

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 0869

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO OPIC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

1. IN A LENGTHY INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH ON FEBRUARY 27 BEFORE THE DOMINICAN CONGRESS, PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER PRESENTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, DETAILED AND DEFENDED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION DURING THE PAST YEAR, AND PRESENTED FIVE CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR FUTURE ACTION.

2. MUCH OF THE UNUSUALLY LONG SPEECH (NEARLY THREE HOURS) WAS DEDICATED TO THE PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW OF THE DOMINICAN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL SITUATION. BEFORE HE LAUNCHED INTO THE MAIN BODY OF HIS SPEECH, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT MADE A SPIRITED DEFENSE OF THE LEGITIMACY OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND UNDERLINED THAT IT WAS IMPOSED AND SUPPORTED NOT BY THE SWORD BUT BY THE PEOPLE'S WILL. CONTINUISMO WAS NOT AT ISSUE HERE, HE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 00869 011525Z

PROCLAIMED, BUT DEMOCRATIC CONTINUITY. HE THEN

ENUMERATED THE NOT INCONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC GAINS HIS GOVERNMENT ACHIEVED DURING THE PAST YEAR. IN DESCRIBING THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES WHICH LAY AHEAD, BALAGUER NOTED THAT 1974 WOULD BE AN ESPECIALLY CRITICAL YEAR BECAUSE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS AND WORLDWIDE INFLATION. HE SAID DOMINICANS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE MEASURES TO CONSERVE ENERGY AND THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD MAKE A STRONG PUSH TO INCREASE EXPORTS TO OFFSET THE INCREASED COST OF PETROLEUM IMPORTS. STRESSING AT LENGTH THE HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL ORIENTATION OF HIS ADMINISTRATION, BALAGUER REPEATEDLY WARNED THAT BENEFITS OF INCREASING PRODUCTION WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN THIS LIGHT, THE PRESIDENT PROMISED THE GODR WOULD CONTINUE TO PUSH AGRARIAN REFORM IN ORDER TO RAISE THE LIVING STANDARDS OF CAMPESINOS.

3. ALLUDING TO THE SHORTAGE OF DOMESTIC CAPITAL AND LOCAL INITIATIVE, BALAGUER CRITICIZED THOSE DOMINICANS WHO INDISCRIMINATELY ATTACKED FOREIGN INVESTMENT. ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME OFFICIAL RESTRAINTS PLACED ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT, THE PRESIDENT DEFENDED FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN GENERAL AND GULF AND WESTERN AMERICAS IN PARTICULAR AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO AN "OPEN DOOR" POLICY WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN CAPITAL.

4. THE PRESIDENT PROPOSED TO CONGRESS THE FOLLOWING FIVE BILLS WHICH WOULD

A) PUT INTO THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM CERTAIN CHOICE LANDS CURRENTLY UTILIZED FOR CATTLE PRODUCTION (SEPTTEL).

B) LEGALIZE THE DOMINICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (SEPTTEL).

C) FREEZE PRICES,

D) LIBERALIZE BAIL REQUIREMENTS IN CERTAIN INSTANCES,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTO 00869 011525Z

AND

E) MAKE RECREATION SITES AVAILABLE TO LOW INCOME GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS. BALAGUER CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH BY OFFERING FULL GOVERNMENT COOPERATION AND SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF FREE AND HONEST ELECTIONS AND BY PROMISING THAT "THE PEOPLE'S WILL AT THE BALLOT BOXES NEXT MAY 16 WILL BE RELIGIOUSLY

RESPECTED."

COMMENT

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, COMING IN THE MIDST OF A NATIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, NOT SURPRISINGLY CONTAINED SOMETHING FOR NEARLY EVERYONE. HIS EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND A FAIR SHAKE FOR THE LITTLE GUY, INCLUDING BOTH URBAN AND RURAL WORKERS, IS CONSISTENT WITH AN IMAGE HE HAS TRIED TO DEVELOP IN RECENT YEARS. HIS CONTINUED ADVOCACY OF AGRARIAN REFORM IS ANOTHER REFLECTION OF HIS DETERMINATION TO PUSH FORWARD, HOWEVER, CAUTIOUSLY, IN THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR. WHILE HIS DEFENSE OF FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND, SPECIFICALLY, GULF AND WESTERN, MIGHT INDEED ANTAGONIZE SOME NATIONALISTIC SECTORS OF DOMINICAN SOCIETY, BALAGUER BALANCED THIS OFF WITH A CALL FOR CLOSE GOVERNMENT SCRUTINY AND REGULATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS AS WELL AS A POLICY STATEMENT THAT SUCH INVESTMENTS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE WITH DOMINICAN ECONOMIC SECTORS WHERE THE LATTER HAD ALREADY SHOWN AN INTEREST AND A CAPABILITY. THROUGHOUT, BALAGUER'S SPEECH WAS GENERALLY CAUTIOUS IN TONE AND BALANCED IN CONTENT. IN ORDER TO ALLAY ANY FEARS THAT HE WOULD TAKE ANY DRASTIC NEW INITIATIVES IN THIS CAMPAIGN YEAR, HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED A PRAGMATIC AND GRADUALISTIC APPROACH IN THE FORMULATION AND EXECUTION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY. NONETHELESS, THE PRESIDENT FIRMLY ADVOCATED THE CONCEPT OF A DYNAMIC AND CHANGING WORLD AND WARNED THAT THOSE WHO OPPOSED REFORM NOW MIGHT FIND REVOLUTION THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE AT A LATER DATE. THE GENERAL TENOR OF HIS SPEECH REFLECTED A CONFIDENT AND GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC BALAGUER, ONE WHO GAVE EVERY INDICATION THAT HE WOULD BE AROUND FOR AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SANTO 00869 011525Z

LEAST THE NEXT FOUR YEARS TO GUIDE THE DESTINY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS

E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION, SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO00869
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740374/aaaacqzo.tel
Line Count: 153
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 24 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH
TAGS: PINT, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005